

## 2011 DNRC Renewable Resource Grant Oral Testimony

I am here on behalf of Raymond Bell, acting president of Sidney Water Users Irrigation District who could not be here today.

- Supporting project #25
- Increasing irrigation efficiency: District 5 Lateral 2

### Brief History

- Sidney Water Users was put into operation in 1938
- Became an irrigation district in 1995 consisting of 5 sub-districts
- The district covers approximately 4,753 acres
- Located in Richland County
- On the East side of Yellowstone River near Sidney
- 30 land owners make up the district
- Assessments are currently \$35.00 acre
- Total annual assessments \$167,000

### Project Budget

- Total Project cost \$284,970
- The grant requested is in the amount of \$100,000
- NRCS In-Kind funding for survey and design \$30,000
- The district will be contributing in-kind contribution of \$154,970
- The district is currently applying for a grant with the Bureau of Reclamation for matching funds.

### Scope of Project

- Project will rehabilitate Lateral 1 & 2 by replacing the existing 3.5 miles of open canal with a 1.8 miles gravity flow closed pipeline.
- Pipeline will start out with 24" PVC pipe and step down to 12" at the end.
- All 10 turnouts will be equipped with flow meters to measure water applied to each field.

- Both lateral 1 & 2 open ditches will be closed, reclaimed and seeded to native grasses.

## **Project & Goals**

1. Increase overall system efficiency
  - a. Eliminate seepage loss of approximately 2.7 CFS or 460 acre feet of water per year to remain in the Yellowstone River.
  - b. Installation of flow meters will promote the efficient and beneficial use of water and will improve both water delivery management and on farm management.
  - c. Conserve approximately 27,100 KWH of energy as a result of pumping less water due to elimination of seepage loss.
2. Reduce erosion and sediments throughout the project.
3. Reduce noxious weeds infestations on the open lateral banks.
4. Development of wildlife nesting and resting habitat where the open laterals will be closed and reclaimed to natural habitat.

## **Closing**

- The preliminary design and engineering has been completed.
- SWUID management will administer grant contract and will coordinate and act as contractor over the project.
- NRCS will provide the final design and give technical assistance and also oversee project
- If this grant is approved construction would begin in the spring of 2012 and completed in the fall of 2012.
- The Local community, businesses, conservation districts, and irrigators express strong support for this project.
- Greatly appreciate your support in approving our DNRC Renewable Resource Grant Application.